

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (172-31)

FROM : *gfb* SAC, DENVER (172-3) (RUC)

SUBJECT: *gwb* CHARLES SONNY LISTON;
CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY
OO: Boston

DATE: 6/27/66

Re Denver letter to Bureau dated 6/20/66.

Line 5, paragraph 1, page 2 of referenced letter should read [redacted] who is connected with [redacted] in Las Vegas" rather than [redacted] who is connected with the Stardust Motel in Las Vegas." b6 b7c

Denver, unless advised to the contrary, is conducting no further investigation in this matter.

12/27/66

2 - Bureau (172-31)
1 - Boston (172-41)
1 - Las Vegas
1 - Denver
WJM:pgr
(5)

*01-85-10/6/66
CASE Closed at
BS No positive
info developed
333*

172-31-

NOT RECORDED
14 JUN 29 1966

NOT RECORDED
14 JUN 29 1966

JUL 14 1966 *thr*

5/27/65

Airtel

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Crime Records Div.
1 - Mr. Gale
1 - Mr. McAndrews
1 - Mr. Baker

To: SACs, Boston
Chicago
New York
Philadelphia

From: Director, FBI

SONNY LISTON - CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HEAVYWEIGHT FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY

In view of the wide publicity with its attendant allegations given captioned matter and the indications that inquiries into this fight will be made by numerous bodies, including Congressional committees, you should discreetly contact highly confidential and other sources, as well as appropriate confidential informants, for any information they may have pertaining to this matter. Advise Bureau by return airtel. No open investigation is to be conducted at this time.

NOTE: See memo Gale to Belmont, same caption, dated 5/27/65, WPB:cae.

This communication being sent to these offices since information from highly confidential sources reveals gamblers in those areas have controlled boxers.

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

WPB:cae
(14)

MCT-46

REC-50

19 MAY 28 1965

41965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Muhammad Ali-703

5/27/65

Airtel

To: SAC, Boston

From: Director, FBI

SONNY LISTON - CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HEAVYWEIGHT FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY

ReBuairtel 5/27/65.

Department advises USA, Portland, Maine, has informed news media he contemplates conducting inquiries into Liston - Clay fight. In event USA requests your office to conduct investigation, Bureau authority is to be requested prior to instituting same.

Other action of the USA, such as Federal Grand Jury, as well as other pertinent developments should be promptly furnished Bureau.

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

WPB:rmg

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

19 MAY 28 1965

Muhammad Ali-704

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont *WB*

DATE: May 27, 1965

FROM : J. H. Gale *g/har*

SUBJECT: SONNY LISTON - CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HEAVYWEIGHT FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

As you know, the Liston-Clay fight has received wide publicity by all forms of news media. Included in the publicity have been what appear to be unsubstantiated allegations by sports writers and persons long associated with the fight game that this fight was "fixed."

Since we have received no information or allegations to date indicating improprieties in connection with this fight, no open investigation is being conducted. It is felt, however, that appropriate confidential informants and sources located in logical offices should be discreetly contacted for information bearing on this matter.

ACTION:

That, if approved, the attached airtel instructing our Boston, Chicago, New York and Philadelphia Offices to contact appropriate sources and informants regarding this matter, be sent.

Enclosure

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Crime Records Division
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. McAndrews
- 1 - Mr. Baker

WPB:cae

ENCLOSURE

JUN 1 1965

Muhammad Ali-705

Tolson _____
 Belmont _____
 Mohr _____
 DeLoach _____
 Casper _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 Felt _____
 Gale _____
 Rosen _____
 Sullivan _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

UPI-119

ADD 1 BOXING, WASHINGTON (UPI-87)
 A COMMISSION BILL WAS ~~ALSO~~ INTRODUCED BY REP. BENJAMIN ROSENTHAL,
 D-N.Y.

CALLING ATTENTION TO "THE GROWING DOMINATION OF PROFESSIONAL BOXING
 BY RACKETEERS AND UNDERWORLD ELEMENTS," ROSENTHAL SAID HIS BILL WOULD
 EMPOWER THE COMMISSION TO:

--ESTABLISH RULES TO GOVERN CONTRACT AND RE-MATCH AGREEMENTS.
 --SET STANDARDS FOR TRAINING PROCEDURES AND ADEQUATE MEDICAL
 EXAMINATIONS DURING TRAINING AND BEFORE FIGHTS.

CHAIRMAN EMANUEL CELLER, D-N.Y., WHOSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE
 THE AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE BOXING IF THERE WERE INDICATIONS OF
 CRIMINAL ACTS OR VIOLATIONS OF THE ANTI-TRUST LAWS, NOTED THAT CONGRESS
 HAD INVESTIGATED BOXING IN THE PAST. HE SAID HE HAD NOT YET MADE
 UP HIS MIND ABOUT ANOTHER STUDY.

5/27--EG247PED

ENCLOSURE

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Muhammad Ali-706

172-31-3

Tolson _____
 Belmont _____
 Mohr _____
 DeLoach _____
 Casper _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 Felt _____
 Gale _____
 Rosen _____
 Sullivan _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

UPI-127

ADD 2 BOXING, WASHINGTON
 IN THE SENATE, 72 YEAR-OLD SEN. A. WILLIS ROBERTSON, D-VA., WAS
 SUGGESTED AS THE MATCH FOR EITHER CLAY OR LISTON. THE SUGGESTION
 WAS MADE BY SEN. WARREN G. MAGNUSON, D-WASH., IN THE COURSE OF A
 SERIES OF BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES TO ROBERTSON.

SEN. HERMAN E. TALMADE, D-GA., NOTING THAT ROBERTSON IS KNOWN FOR
 HIS LOVE OF HUNTING AND FISHING, HAD COMMENTED THAT ROBERTSON HAS A RIGHT
 ARM LIKE THAT OF A PRIZE-FIGHTER.

MAGNUSON QUICKLY COMMENTED THAT ROBERTSON'S RIGHT WAS "STRONGER
 THAN TWO OTHER FIGHTERS' THAT I KNOW OF" AND ADDED: "I'D PUT HIM
 IN THE RING WITH EITHER ONE OF THEM."

5/27--EG308FED

172-31-3

F B I

Date: 5/28/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via A I R T E L _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, PHILADELPHIA (172-3) (RUC)

SONNY LISTON - CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HEAVYWEIGHT FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY

Rebuairtel 5/27/65.

PHlet to Bureau, 5/24/65, captioned "Racket Control of Closed Circuit TV Rights for Clay-Liston Fight, 11/16/64 and 5/25/65" and PHairtel, 5/27/65, with same caption, contain all available information re possible fix.

PHlet, 5/24/65, contained information provided 11/19/64 by re possible fix.

b7D

- 3 - Bureau
1 - Boston (Info)
1 - Chicago (Info)
1 - New York (Info)
1 - Philadelphia (172-3)

RWH:lac
(7)

REC-38
EX-112 MCT-22

172-31-4
8 MAY 29 1965

Approved

JUN 14 1965

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per

Muhammad Ali-708

F B I

Date: 6/2/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK

SUBJECT: SONNY LISTON-CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HEAVY-
WEIGHT FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY

EW 2
6

Re Bureau airtel, 5/27/65.

On 5/24/65 and 5/25/65, [] was contacted by SA FRANK R. GERRITY and advised that he had heard nothing specific about any "dumping" for this fight. Informant said that it was the opinion of people in the fight game that LISTON could knock out CLAY if he so desired.

b7D

On 5/26/65, informant advised that the rumor amongst people in the fight game was that LISTON "took a dive." Informant had no specific positive information to support this statement. Informant said that regardless of who was fronting in the handling of LISTON, he is still controlled by the underworld, namely FRANK "BLINKY" PALERMO, who has been described by various investigating agencies, including the Kefauver Committee in 1960, as an underworld figure who had control in boxing.

- 3 - Bureau
1 - Boston (INFO)
1 - Chicago (INFO)
1 - Philadelphia (172-3)(INFO)
3 - New York
(1- [])
(1-92-1301)

REC-10

172-31-5

EX-105

12 JUN 3 1965

MRG:chm
(10)

b7D

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

Muhammad Ali-709

On 5/25/65, [redacted] whose identity should be kept confidential, [redacted] Madison Square Garden, advised LISTON could knock out CLAY if everything was legitimate in the fight. [redacted] stated that he was concerned about the Black Muslims getting to LISTON and having him throw the fight for fear of death. [redacted] was thoroughly questioned concerning this statement and explained that he had no specific information to substantiate this opinion, but he felt that the Black Muslims were a bad group and would go to any extreme to protect their champion. [redacted] has supplied no substantial information regarding captioned matter since the fight.

b7D

No additional significant information has been obtained through highly confidential sources and confidential informants in the NYO. These sources and informants have been alerted regarding captioned matter and any significant information will be forwarded to the Bureau as developed.

FBI

Date: 6/1/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (172-New)

SUBJECT: SONNY LISTON VERSUS CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP HEAVYWEIGHT
FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY

Re Bureau airtel dated 5/27/65.

Sources and confidential informants who are considered experts in the field of boxing on a national scale were contacted at Chicago re captioned boxing match.

All sources furnished substantially the same information regarding LISTON's defeat in that they agreed that the result of the light blow thrown by CLAY in the first round was attributed to LISTON's character. All described LISTON as a "dog" in the boxing field. This term is applied to a fighter who though he possesses the appearance of a fierce competitor lacks the necessary qualities of courage and the will to win.

former manager of several Chicago boxers, who was at ringside at Lewiston, Maine, reported LISTON appeared sluggish and dazed during the

3 - Bureau
1 - Chicago

JRB:cle
(4)

REC-26

EX-102

JUN 4 1965

Approved: 341

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

Muhammad Ali-711

b6
b7c

JRE:cle/rav
CG 172-New

approximate 25 minutes in the ring prior to the actual bout. [] theorized LISTON may have been under the influence of a narcotic or similar substance.

b6
b7C

[] Chicago boxing promoter and promoter of the teleprompter version is of the opinion that possibly the heat during the long wait in the ring prior to the fight coupled with LISTON's age sapped his strength and slowed his reflexes causing his early downfall. [] is not aware of any other outside pressure exerted upon LISTON to throw the fight.

b6
b7C

[] heavyweight competitor who has fought LISTON, is of the opinion LISTON bit loss by decision inevitable, hence, took the easy way out. [] from personal experience, states LISTON is extremely difficult to hurt much less knock down, making knock-out by CLAY ridiculous.

b6
b7C

All sources advise that to the best of their knowledge betting on the bout was at a minimum and it was felt that monetary offer to LISTON to throw the fight could nowhere near equal the value of winning the title; hence, no outside influence in this regard dictated LISTON's behavior during the bout.

All sources are close to the operation of boxing on a national scale and have stated they will be alert for any future reports of irregularity connected with captioned fight and will immediately relay any such information to the Chicago Office.

F B I

Date: 6/4/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BOSTON (172-4)

SONNY LISTON - CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HEAVYWEIGHT FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY

On 6/1/65, [] advised that the day before the CLAY-LISTON fight, [] who has a bookmaking operation, posted the odds as 8-5 in favor of LISTON; 5-6 in favor of CLAY. The day of the fight the informant ascertained from [] that the odds changed to a 6-5 "pickem" fight.

[] at this time stated that he would take as much LISTON money as he could; he was loaded with CLAY money, and told the informant that if he heard of anyone wanting to bet LISTON, regardless of the amount, the informant was to take the bet and lay off the money to him.

Informant immediately figured from the way [] handled him on the phone that something was wrong with the fight, and that he, the informant, thought LISTON would win.

3-Bureau
1-New York (Info)
1-Philadelphia (Info)
1-Boston

JFK:po'b
(6)

REC-35

172-31-7

10 JUN 8 1965

EX 115

8/16
NINE

C C - Wick

Approved: J. L. Handley
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

Muhammad Ali-713

b6
b7C
b7D

b6
b7C

b6
b7C

BS 172-4

Previous investigation of [] reflected that
he is apparently bookmaking for [] subject
of Bosfile 165-1, Bufile 165-19.

b6
b7c

F B I

Date:

6/1/65

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

Via _____

(Priority)

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. Casper	✓
Mr. Callahan	✓
Mr. Conrad	✓
Mr. Felt	✓
Mr. Gale	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Sullivan	✓
Mr. Tavel	✓
Mr. Trotter	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Miss Holmes	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BOSTON (17254)

SONNY LISTON-CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HEAVYWEIGHT FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY

Reurairtel, 5/27/65.

District Attorney GARRETT H. BYRNE, Suffolk County, Boston, Mass., advised that he caused the LISTON-CLAY Heavyweight Championship bout, which was to have taken place in Boston on 5/25/65, to be banned in Boston because of the following:

Approximately a month before the scheduled fight information came to his attention that the LISTON-CLAY promoters had attempted to schedule the fight in 35-40 cities throughout the United States but were turned down in every city. Pressure was brought to bear by [redacted] Congressman JOHN W. MC CORMACK, who, in turn, obtained the assistance of Massachusetts Governor's Council, PATRICK J. "SONNY" MC DONOUGH. MC DONOUGH exerted pressure on the Massachusetts former Gov. ENDICOTT PEABODY, who, in turn, exerted pressure on the Massachusetts Boxing Commission which he, the Governor, appoints.

3-Bureau
1-Boston

JFK:po'b
(4)

EX 110

REC 33

17-318
14 JUN 3 1965

C. G. Wick

NONE

Approved: *J. F. Handley*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

Muhammad Ali-715

BS 172-4

The Boxing Commission was not too enthusiastic to permit the fight to take place in Boston.

Because of these pressures, the Boxing Commission finally voted to schedule the fight in Boston.

BYRNE, during his investigation, ascertained that the fight was being promoted by what he termed "phantom promoters" who used a local promoter to actually obtain the license in the local promoter's name.

A Massachusetts Statute demands that 5% of the actual attendance be collected by the Massachusetts tax authorities at least 24 hours in advance of the fight. Based on this statute, he caused court action in order to collect the 5% of the above attendance.

He realized that the local promoter, [REDACTED] was not in a position to pay this percentage. When court action was brought, the promoters immediately changed the fight to Lewiston, Me.

b6
b7c

BYRNE advised that he has no information the fight was fixed.

Logical Boston informants contacted. All advised they have no knowledge of any fix.

F B I

Date: 6/16/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, BOSTON (172-4)
SONNY LISTON-CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HEAVYWEIGHT FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY

Rebuairtel to Boston, 5/27/65, and Bosairtel to Bureau, 6/1/65.

On 6/14/65, USA ALTON A. LESSARD, Portland, Me., advised SA [redacted] that no Federal Grand Jury or other action is contemplated in this matter unless Congressional Committee investigation indicates such action warranted.

b6
b7c

It is noted USA LESSARD has indicated that [redacted] Antitrust Division, had suggested possibility of FTC investigation under Antitrust Laws, but no action has been initiated in this connection.

b6
b7c

This is being submitted for information purposes.

3-Bureau
1-Boston

GRB:po'b
(4)

REC-40

172-31-9

JUN 18 1965

G. C. Wick

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

Muhammad Ali-717

F B I

Date: 7/20/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (172-9) (RUC)

SUBJECT: SONNY LISTON - CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HEAVY-WEIGHT FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERYRe Bureau airtel 5/27/65, and NY airtel to
Director, 6/2/65.

On 6/8/65, [redacted] advised SA [redacted] that [redacted] of Las Vegas had lost a "bundle of money" on the captioned fight. It appeared that [redacted] along with other top gamblers had bet on LISTON. According to the informant, [redacted], ex-wife of [redacted], had indicated that it looked like the wrong one "took a dive". Informant commented that such a situation was possible in view of [redacted] close association with [redacted] who in turn was close to LISTON. Informant was unable to comment more specifically on the above information.

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b7C
b7D

Contacts ^{with} ~~by~~ additional informants and other sources available to the NYO resulted in no additional specific information regarding captioned matter.

3 - Bureau
1 - New York (92-1301)
1 - New York

MRG:ggr
(6)

REC 4

172-3110

14 JUL 21 1965

Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

Muhammad Ali-718

55 JUL 27 1965

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 7/30/65

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (172-3) (C)

SUBJECT: SONNY LISTON - CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HEAVYWEIGHT FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY

Contacts have been continued with sources and confidential informants who are considered experts in the field of boxing on a national scale. These sources, include [redacted] who has been in personal contact with SONNY LISTON and who has discussed various aspects of the captioned fight.

No additional information has been developed which indicates bribery or other irregularities connected with captioned fight since it took place on May 25, 1965.

Based on the above, this matter is being closed by the Chicago Office. However, contact will periodically be made with sources and informants and any new developments relative to captioned matter will be immediately submitted to the Bureau.

2 - Bureau
1 - Chicago
JRB/mjt
(3)

REC-45
EX-113

172-31 11
1 AUG 2 1965

MAIVE

Muhammad Ali-719

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (172-31)

DATE: 9/23/65

FROM : SAC, BOSTON (172-4)

SUBJECT: SONNY LISTON-CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HEAVYWEIGHT FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY

Rebulet to Bureau, 6/16/65.

By letter dated 8/4/65, the New Haven Office advised that [redacted] after contacting the gambling element in NYC and reading where captioned fight discussed by members of U. S. Congress, decided against contacting [redacted] of Camden, N. J. He theorized that no information could be elicited from [redacted] in view of the public reaction to the effect that the fight was not on the level.

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b7D

New Haven also advised that Las Vegas was unable to develop any information indicating that the fight was fixed.

In view of the above, this case is being closed.

2-Bureau
1-New Haven (92-264) (Info)
1-Boston

JFK:po'b
(4)

REC 33

EX-113

16 SEP 27 1965



57 OCT 4 1965

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

Muhammad Ali-720

FBI

Date: 12/8/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (172-9) (P)
SUBJECT: SONNY LISTON - CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT.
SPORTS BRIBERY

* 2
6

ReBuairtel 5/27/65 and NY airtels 6/2 and 7/20/65.

Information copies of this airtel are being furnished the Boston, Chicago and Philadelphia Offices in view of referenced Buairtel in this matter. For information of offices not having received referenced Buairtel, the Bureau following the LISTON-CLAY championship fight, advised as follows:

In view of the wide publicity with its attendant allegations given captioned matter, and the indications that inquiries into this fight will be made by numerous bodies including Congressional committees, you should discreetly contact highly confidential and other sources, as well as appropriate confidential informants, for any information they may have pertaining to this matter. Advise Bureau by return airtel. No open investigation is to be conducted at this time.

- 3-Bureau (RM)
- 1-Boston (Info) (RM)
- 1-Chicago (Info) (RM)
- 2-Dallas (RM)
- 2-Houston (RM)
- 2-Las Vegas (RM)
- 2-El Paso (RM)
- 1-Philadelphia (Info) (RM)
- 2-San Antonio (RM)
- 1-New York [redacted]
- 2-New York (172-9)
- 1-New York (92-1498)
- GTB:EG
- (20)

REC-34

172-31-13

25 DEC 9 1965

b7D

C.S. - HICK

NAVE

7/ Approved: JEAN J. [signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

3 9 DEC 14 1965

Muhammad Ali-721

NY 172-9

It is noted that on 12/2/65, PCI [] advised SA [] he had received the following information from [], whom the PCI described as a close friend of SONNY LISTON, who has part interest in a casino as well as other interests in Las Vegas:

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b7C
b7D

[] bet \$12,000 on LISTON to win the first LISTON-CLAY title bout. After losing this, [] asked questions and allegedly heard that LISTON had taken a sizable pay-off to "take a dive".

b6
b7C

According to [] one or more oil men from Texas had bet a large amount on LISTON to win. [] believed that the person or persons holding this money approached LISTON and offered him a very sizable amount of money to throw the fight. [] advised PCI that it was his belief that LISTON was approached directly in this regard and personally agreed to throw the fight, but stated no one would ever be able to prove it.

b6
b7C

At the time of the second LISTON-CLAY fight in Maine, [] again intended to bet on LISTON; however, when [] reached Maine he was told by someone whom he would not identify, that he should not bet on LISTON, as the fight was definitely fixed and CLAY could not lose. The PCI stated he could not be sure, but to the best of his recollection, [] mentioned that someone from Las Vegas had paid LISTON to throw the fight. [] also advised the PCI that CLAY was not aware that both fights had been fixed and CLAY is allegedly under the impression that he won both fights fairly.

b6
b7C

[] further advised PCI he heard a rumor to the effect that LISTON now owns a share of CASSIUS CLAY through LISTON's interest in the Inter-Continental Promotions.

b6
b7C

It is noted that the information received from the PCI is vague and non-specific. However, the Dallas, Houston, Las Vegas, El Paso and San Antonio Offices are requested to contact appropriate sources and informants in an effort to develop more specific information relating to the alleged "oil men" who placed a large amount on LISTON to win, and in particular, to identify their bookmaker or persons who accepted large bets from them.

NY 172-9

The NYO will maintain contact with the PCI who has furnished the above information and additional informants will be contacted in this matter in an effort to develop more specific information.

F B I

Date: 12/13/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (172-5) (RUC)

SUBJECT: SONNY LESTON - CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY

Re New York airtel to Director, 12/8/65.

On 12/13/65, [] a bookmaker with extensive knowledge of betting odds on sporting events, advised that no information has come to his attention concerning possible fix of captioned fight. He said he takes no bets on boxing matches because he is of the opinion that all fights are crooked. He was unable, however, to furnish any details concerning any specific crooked fight.

b7D

3-Bureau
2-New York (172-9)
1-San Antonio

GK:ldb
(6)

REC-75

172-31-14
DEC 15 1965

68 DEC 21 1965

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

Muhammad Ali-724

FBI

Date: 12/17/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, LAS VEGAS (172-3) (RUC)

SONNY LISTON - CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY

Re New York airtel to Bureau, 12/8/65.

12/17/65: [] furnished the following information on

[] did not bet \$12,000 on LISTON to win the first LISTON - CLAY title bout. He did, however, bet \$5,200 on LISTON to win. [] does not believe LISTON took a dive in either the first or second fight. The odds on the first fight, up to about one hour before the match, were 4 or 5 to 1, and then moved to 8 to 1 before the fight. To make the odds jump in this manner meant that the gamblers were betting big money on LISTON.

[] knew that LISTON had a poor shoulder before the first LISTON - CLAY fight.

The individual who told [] not to bet on LISTON in the second fight was [] who advised [] that LISTON was not in condition and could not take CLAY. [] however, made a sentimental bet on LISTON and lost a small amount on this fight.

Wick

The fact that LISTON owns, or did own, an interest in the Inter-Continental Promotions, is common knowledge and carried in sports pages of newspapers.

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
- 2 - New York (172-9) (RM)
- 2 - Las Vegas (1 - 172-3)
- (1 - [])

WHD:alf
(7)

REC-81
172-3115
EX-112
3 DEC 22 1965

Approved: [Signature]
53 JAN 4 1966 Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

Muhammad Ali-725

LV 172-3

The betting [] made on the above fights was head to head bets, and no layoff was involved.

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The only rumor that source has heard of late, which he has not been able to talk over with LISTON, is the rumor which says that the NOI may have threatened bodily harm to LISTON's family if he did not take a dive in the second LISTON - CLAY fight. It is the source's opinion that while CLAY is too young and strong for LISTON, CLAY does not have the power to stop LISTON in one round.

Source stated LISTON plans to tour Europe starting in late February with exhibition matches. [] and possibly LISNER may accompany LISTON.

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For the information of New York, [] LISTON and is [] During the recent CLAY - PATTERSON heavyweight championship fight held in Las Vegas, CLAY roomed and ate in special accommodations [] This office has no reason to doubt the reliability of [] and it is pointed out that during the past six months this source has furnished reliable information to this office.

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F B I

Date: 12/29/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (172-3) (RUC)

SUBJECT: SONNY LISTON;
CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY

Re New York airtel to Bureau 12/8/65.

Chicago confidential sources and informants contacted.

On 12/28/65, [] reiterated as in past contacts, he had no doubts that the second LISTON-CLAY fight was fixed, as a result of outside influence brought to bear on LISTON. Informant of opinion CLAY totally unaware of any irregularity on the part of LISTON.

Informant, [] LISTON, was in contact with LISTON immediately after the bout. He recalled that LISTON's wife [] remarked to him, "I just wouldn't allow him to keep going and maybe get hurt". Informant was of opinion that she was aware

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
3 - New York (1 - [] (RM)
 (1 - 172-9)
 (1 - 92-1498)
1 - Boston (RM) (Info)
2 - Chicago (1 - []

JRB:keh
(9)

REC 30

DEC 31 1965

Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

Muhammad Ali-727

that the outcome of the bout was inevitable, that LISTON must lose, and that he was told by her to take the first opportunity to "bow out", rather than stay the 15 round distance and possibly incur injury. According to informant, [] greatly influences LISTON's actions.

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Informant volunteered that LISTON was very close to [] who held interest in Las Vegas Enterprises and stated that LISTON and [] had engaged in "a lot of shenigans" in Las Vegas together, however, did not volunteer specifics in this regard. He volunteered that [] would be an appropriate individual to contact LISTON in order to further any fix or irregularity connected with the fight.

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Informant, [] especially LISTON, was at ring-side in Lewiston, Maine, 5/25/65. Knowing LISTON's tremendous capacity for absorbing physical punishment, he termed the "knock out" of LISTON ridiculous. To illustrate CLAY's punching power, he noted that recently CLAY was unable to knock out aging FLOYD PATTERSON who was light, smaller, and suffered from a severe back injury. []

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[] current heavy weight contender ERNIE TERRILL, recalled that immediately after the championship fight between CLAY and LISTON, he spoke briefly with [] in a Lewiston, Maine hotel room. [] who had 25% of LISTON's contract and who is also a close associate of Philadelphia hoodlums ANGELO BRUNO and FRANK PALERMO, made a remark to informant in a voice of authority, "forget it, TERRILL would not have fought LISTON anyway." According to informant, [] prior to the bout, displayed absolutely no interest or anxiety in connection with the forthcoming fight, indicating to informant that [] also had inside information regarding the outcome of the bout.

In connection with information set forth in reairtel relative to development of more specific information in this matter, the following is set forth for consideration Boston Office:

CG 172-3

Prior to selection of Lewiston, Maine as final site for CLAY-LISTON bout, Boston, Massachusetts was considered the logical site, however, due to strong objections of Suffolk County District Attorney GARRETT H. BYRNE, Boston was ruled out. Subsequently an article appeared in the "Boston Herald", dated 5/27/65, and lavished praise on BYRNE for refusing to sanction bout in Boston. Article stated basis for his objections prior to the fight was that BYRNE "possessed information convincing him that the fight was to be a set-up". It is not known if Bureau or Boston has deemed it advisable to interview BYRNE to determine information in his possession prior to the bout.

[] recalled that upon LISTON's telephonic request he flew to his home in Denver, on 6/4/65, to talk to him. LISTON was extremely depressed; however, did not admit to a "fix" during their conversation. Informant was of opinion that present time would possibly be suitable to interview LISTON regarding his actions during the fight, however, he noted that LISTON is extremely antagonistic toward law enforcement officials and members of the Caucasian race in general. ||

b7D

1/4/66

Airtel

To: SAC, Denver

From: Director, FBI (172-31)

①
SONNY LISTON;
CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY

ReCGairtel to Bureau dated 12/29/65.

For the information of Denver, the Bureau instituted discreet inquiries of highly confidential sources in several large cities to determine if the above fight held in Lewiston, Maine, May, 1965, was "fixed" because of the wide publicity it received and indications that investigations would be conducted by various agencies including Congressional Committees. To date, vague information and personal opinions have been received concerning a "fix;" however, no definite information has been received to indicate it was.

A Chicago source who is close to Liston recently advised Liston was extremely depressed concerning the fight. He stated Liston did not admit to a "fix" but was of the opinion Liston would possibly be susceptible to an interview at the present time regarding his activities in the fight. Source stated, however, Liston is extremely antagonistic toward law enforcement officials and members of the Caucasian race in general.

Inasmuch as Liston resides in Denver, you are requested to furnish the Bureau any information you have received concerning this matter. Denver should also furnish your recommendation as to the feasibility of an interview with Liston and if there are any reasons to preclude such an interview.

For the information of Chicago, District Attorney ^{JAN 5 1966} Garrett H. Byrne, Boston, Massachusetts, has been interviewed concerning this matter and could furnish no definite information regarding a "fix" of the fight.

MAILED 19
JAN 4 1966
Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Wick _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

1 - Boston (172-4)
1 - Chicago (172-3)
1 - New York (172-9)

TMJ:bsn
(7)

57 JAN 11 1966
MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Muhammad Ali-730

F B I

Date: 1/11/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (172-31)

FROM: SAC, DENVER (172-3) (P)

SONNY LISTON;
CASSIUS CLAY;
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY

Re Bureau airtel to Denver dated 1/4/66.

Sources of the Denver Office have furnished no information to substantiate information indicated in referenced airtel that the fight held in Lewiston, Maine, in May of 1965 was fixed. On the contrary, former Denver PCI [REDACTED] LISTON volunteered shortly after the fight that he was present at the fight and in his opinion the fight was not fixed. No source of this office has reported personal conversation with LISTON concerning the circumstances of his losing this fight.

Before consideration is given to a direct approach to LISTON, Denver Agents contemplating discreet contacts with established Denver sources, particularly [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to determine if they can obtain any pertinent information in this matter.

It is noted that on two occasions during the past year Agents of the Denver Office have contacted LISTON and on one

- 3 - Bureau (172-31)
- 1 - Boston (172-4)
- 1 - Chicago (172-3)
- 1 - New York (172-9)
- 2 - Denver

WJM:pgr
(8)

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Muhammad Ali-731

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b7C
b7D

b7D

EX-106

REC-51

172-31-18

W.D.C. DN 100 to BUREAU, NY

1-13-66

TAT: [REDACTED]

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

100 [Handwritten initials]

DN 172-3

of these occasions he appeared to be reasonable cooperative but on the other he exhibited a highly antagonistic attitude and refused to talk to Agents.

Denver sources indicate LISTON's Denver home is now for sale and he reportedly plans to move to Las Vegas in the near future.

Since information in referenced airtel appears to be indefinite and unspecific, it is suggested that the Bureau direct any offices who may be in possession of more specific information or which has sources available that might logically be expected to supply more specific information to furnish such information to the Bureau and the Denver Office, after which time efforts will be made to set up an interview with LISTON.

1/13/66

Airtel

To: SAC, Denver (172-3)
From: Director, FBI (172-31) - 18

SONNY LISTON;
CASSIUS CLAY;
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY

ReDNairtel to Bureau 1/11/66 and Bureau airtel to Denver 1/4/66.

As indicated in referenced Bureau airtel, attempts by other offices to obtain specific information about a possible "fix" of the Liston - Clay fight in May, 1965, have been unsuccessful. Sources close to Liston indicated he has never admitted the fight was "fixed" and the matter remains unresolved. Denver's recommendation as to an interview with Liston was requested in an attempt to resolve this matter.

Denver should contact sources mentioned in referenced Denver airtel to determine if they have any information which may resolve this question. If no specific information is obtained from these sources that the fight was "fixed," Denver should not interview Liston at this time in view of his highly antagonistic attitude when last contacted by Agents of that office.

- 1 - Boston (172-4)
- 1 - Chicago (172-3)
- 1 - New York (172-9)

NOTE: DN was requested to furnish its recommendations regarding the interview of Liston inasmuch as this matter could not be resolved through sources close to Liston. CG source stated Liston very depressed and might possibly talk although source admitted he was very antagonistic toward law enforcement officials in general and also members of the Caucasian race. DN instructed to contact their sources for information concerning this matter and if none produced no effort should be made to interview Liston because of past experiences

MAILED 10
JAN 13 1966
COMM-FBI

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Wick _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

57 JAN 20 1966
IMJ:bsn (7)
MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Muhammad Ali-733

F B I

Date: 1/27/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (172-31)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (172-9)

SUBJECT: SONNY LISTON;
CASSIUS CLAY,
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY
(OO:BOSTON)

ReNYairtel to the Bureau, 12/8/65, captioned as above.

BS Division is being designated office of origin
inasmuch as last LISTON-CLAY title bout took place within the
BS Division.PCI [] has been recontacted during December,
1965 and January, 1966 without developing any additional
specific information regarding this matter.Sources of the NYO have furnished no information to
substantiate information in referenced NY airtel.Since the information from PCI [] as
furnished 12/2/65 was unspecific, no further investigation is
being conducted by the NYO, UACB.3-Bureau
1-Boston (172-4)
1-Denver (172-3)
1-New YorkGTB:kxb []
(7)

REC- 15

172-21-19
12 JAN 28 1966

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

Muhammad Ali-734

F B I

Date: 1/25/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

Hlgm FROM: SAC, EL PASO (172-2) (RUC)

SUBJECT: SONNY LISTON - CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY

OO: NEW YORK

Re New York airtel to the Bureau dated
12/8/65.

Pursuant to instructions in referenced New York airtel confidential informants in the El Paso Division were contacted on December 16, 21, and 23, 1965 and on January 4, 14 and 21, 1966 in an effort to develop more specific information relating to the alleged "oilmen" who placed a large amount on LISTON to win, in an effort to identify any bookmaker or person who accepted any large bets from these alleged "oilmen".

Informants at El Paso, Texas and in the Midland and Odessa, Texas area where wealthy oilmen do reside report that no one in this area did any heavy betting on either of the fights involving the subjects of this case. It was noted that in this area according to these informants the sporting or

3-Bureau
2-New York (92-1498)
1-El Paso
HHB:mad
(6)

REC-15

172-31-20

JAN 27 1966

JAN 27 1966

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

Muhammad Ali-735

1cc ddd

EP 172-2

betting element have come to consider boxing in
merely the same light as wrestling.

F B I

Date: 1/28/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (172-31)

FROM: SAC, PHILADELPHIA (172-3) (RUC)

SUBJECT: SONNY LISTON - CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HEAVYWEIGHT FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY

ReNYairtel to Bureau dated 12/8/65.

On 6/3/65, [] advised that from what he has heard in fight circles it was a legitimate fight and no "fix" was in. If there had been a fix, it wouldn't have been that obvious in appearance as to what happened. He stated that [] the referee, never should have terminated the fight as CLAY never got to a neutral corner and the rules call for the other fighter to go to a neutral corner when there is a knockdown and this must be done before the referee can start a count and then count out the fallen fighter. LISTON's poor showing was due to over-training. He stated that five days prior to the fight LISTON could have beaten CLAY but they kept on training LISTON and this caused him to just all of a sudden die when in the ring. The day of the fight [] in Philadelphia called [] office and told [] (phonetic) to bet on CLAY. [] had the word then that LISTON was over-trained. [] is a manager who has been in the fight game for years. He also heard that after the fight LISTON cried like a baby. [], who used to have LISTON, never saw him cry or act like this, and [] stated he would bet his life there was no "fix."

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3-Bureau (172-31)
1-Boston (Info)
1-New York (Info)
1-Philadelphia (172-3)

KTB:bco
(6)

REC-15

172-31-21

25 JAN 20 1966

NINE

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

Muhammad Ali-737

PH 172-3

No additional information has been obtained from confidential informants in the Philadelphia Office.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (172-31)

FROM : SAC, DENVER (172-3) (P)

SUBJECT: SONNY LISTON;
CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY
(OO: BOSTON)

DATE: 2/28/66

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Re Bureau airtels to Denver 1/4/66 and 1/13/66;
Denver airtel to Bureau 1/11/66; New York airtel to Bureau
1/27/66.

A copy of this letter is furnished Las Vegas
because information received in Denver that LISTON plans
to move to Las Vegas in the near future.

For information Las Vegas, the Bureau instituted
discreet inquiries of highly confidential sources in several
large cities to determine if the LISTON-CLAY fight held in
Lewiston, Maine, in May of 1965 was "fixed" because of the
wide publicity it received and indications that investigations
would be conducted by various agencies, including Congressional
committees. The Bureau further advised attempts by other
offices to obtain specific information about a possible
"fix" of this fight have been unsuccessful, and pointed out
that sources close to LISTON indicated he has never admitted
the fight was fixed. As a result, this matter remains
unresolved.

REC-47

172-31-22

For further information Las Vegas, Denver,
in the past, has contacted LISTON on two occasions
on other matters, and on one occasion he appeared to
be reasonably cooperative, but on the last contact
he exhibited a highly antagonistic attitude and refused
to talk to agents. Because of this, the Bureau advised

- ② - Bureau
- 1 - Boston (172-4)
- 1 - Chicago (172-3)
- 1 - Las Vegas (Info.)
- 1 - New York (172-9)
- 2 - Denver

WJM:ckp (8)

1 MAR 3 1966

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

Muhammad Ali-739

DN 172-3

any interview of LISTON concerning the possible fix of this fight should be held up at this time, and Denver should contact its sources to determine if they have any information regarding this fight.

[redacted] advised SA WILLIAM J. MALONE on 1/31/66 that he is acquainted with several individuals who have closely associated with LISTON, and pointed out that he has not been able to obtain any information indicating LISTON "laid down" during the last LISTON-CLAY fight held in Lewiston, Maine. He pointed out it was his opinion, and the consensus of the "fight crowd" in Denver, that LISTON was an overrated fighter and CLAY was underrated, and that up until the time LISTON had met CLAY, he had never met any real fighters so as to prove how tough he was. He pointed out LISTON is a loner and does not confide in very many people, but those few people who do know LISTON state that he is not smart enough to be involved in any fix. He also pointed out that if this fight was fixed, whoever arranged the fix did it in a most unusual manner inasmuch as the fight ended so suddenly; and therefore, not even a good script was written for the supposed fixed fight.

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[redacted]

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[redacted] advised SA MALONE on 1/20/66 that no information had come to his attention that the last CLAY-LISTON fight was fixed, and at this time pointed out that it would be most difficult to fix a fight today for gambling purposes since it is most difficult to fight bookmakers throughout the United States who would handle any large bets without becoming suspicious. He pointed

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DN 172-3

out it is difficult to bet large amounts of money with anyone booked throughout the United States, and that any bets would have to be "laid off" to various other book-makers located throughout the United States, and this would also cause quite a bit of suspicion among the gamblers. He also pointed out he did not believe the fight was fixed for the purpose of a syndicate or a group gaining control of the champion inasmuch as LISTON was already reportedly controlled by eastern hoodlums and by his losing the fight, would not enable these hoodlums to regain control of the champion by CLAY's regaining his championship. He could not elaborate on the identity of those who control LISTON, other than stating it was common knowledge FRANK "BLINKY" SALERMO, prior to his imprisonment, had control of LISTON.

[redacted] advised SA [redacted] on 1/13/66 that he was always suspicious of the results of the CLAY-LISTON fights, but he has no evidence that these fights were fixed and has never received any information, other than mere speculation, indicating that there were any irregularities concerning these fights. This informant, who worked for a short time during 1963 as [redacted] for LISTON, advised it was his opinion that CLAY could never have defeated LISTON.

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[redacted] advised SA's WILLIAM J. MALONE and [redacted] on 2/11/66 that there has been much speculation among sports fans in the Five Points Area, where LISTON spends a considerable amount of time, as to whether LISTON might have been involved in any irregularities during his two fights with CASSIUS CLAY. He stated, however, he has not received any specific evidence that these fights were fixed, and it is his opinion, and the opinion of others in the area, that LISTON was overrated and that CLAY was underrated. He pointed out CLAY is definitely a better fighter than he is rated, and that the LISTON-CLAY

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DN 172-3

fight was just a matter of a good young man beating a fair old man.

This informant advised that LISTON presently has his Denver, Colorado, residence for sale and is planning to move to Las Vegas in the near future. He further advised LISTON enjoys a reputation in the Five Points Area of being an avid craps shooter, woman chaser, and heavy drinker. He advised it is reported LISTON always has large sums of money, and that he is sought after by operators of gambling games in the Five Points Area. He further stated LISTON's favorite gambling spot is one [redacted] at 2645 Welton and further advised he understands LISTON has lost a considerable amount of money at the crap games operated at this Welton Street location.

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He pointed out that LISTON has few friends and that he seldom appears at the Five Points Area in places other than [redacted] gambling establishment or at Bishop's Barber Shop.

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[redacted]
PCI [redacted] advised SA [redacted] and SA WILLIAM J. MALONE on 2/11/66 that she is in almost daily contact with LISTON and that he indicates he plans to move to Las Vegas, Nevada, within the next month or two and take up permanent residence there. She said LISTON told her within the past few days that while in Las Vegas he will train once again to fight, and presently has plans to travel to Europe where he will box known European heavyweights. She stated she has no information as to why LISTON is moving to Las Vegas, nor who is responsible for this move.

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This PCI advised that she knows very little about the fight game, but that it was the opinion of most of the people in the Five Points Area where LISTON

DN 172-3

spends most of his time and where she is employed, that LISTON is not as good a fighter as he was rated, and that CLAY was underrated. She stated that quite a few people in the Five Points Area have lost money on both the LISTON-CLAY fights, and that quite a few of these people give LISTON a hard time and at no time has he ever confided to her that he laid down during either of these fights.

She pointed out that she plans to marry [redacted] LISTON [redacted] when [redacted] is released from the Colorado State Penitentiary in March of 1966, and through her contacts with [redacted] she has been in constant contact with LISTON. She pointed out LISTON is a loner and one who is most difficult to get along with.

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For further information of Las Vegas, during a pretext phone call to the Redlon Realty Company in Denver, which company has its "For Sale" sign placed in front of LISTON's Denver residence, it was determined that LISTON plans to remain in Denver until he sells his home, and then move to Las Vegas.

A new case has been opened regarding the gambling activities of [redacted] and during the course of this investigation, discreet inquiry will be made regarding the possibilities of the CLAY-LISTON fights being fixed.

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Denver continuing investigation.

F B I

Date: 3/28/66

Transmit the following in CODE
(Type in plaintext or code)Via RADIOGRAM
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR (MAIL) 172-31 AND LAS VEGAS
FROM DENVER 172-3 1P

SONNY LISTON; CASSIUS CLAY, WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT, SPORTS
BRIBERY. OO BOSTON.

DENVER INFORMANTS ADVISE LISTON MOVING TO LAS VEGAS,
NEVADA, THIS DATE AND WILL RESIDE TWO ZERO FIVE EIGHT OTTAWA
DRIVE, LAS VEGAS.

DENVER CONTINUING INVESTIGATION.

BOSTON ADVISED AIR MAIL.

1 - Bureau (AM)
1 - Boston (172-4) (AM)
2 - Denver
 (1 -)
WJM:mf
(4)

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REC-82

172-31-23

23 MAR 30 1966

Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent [Signature] MPer [Signature] Muhammad Ali-744

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (172-31)

FROM : SAC, DENVER (172-3) (P)

SUBJECT: CHANGED
CHARLES "SONNY" LISTON;
CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY

DATE: 4/27/66

Title changed in this case to reflect subject's true name as CHARLES "SONNY" LISTON.

Re Denver radiogram to Bureau and Las Vegas dated 3/28/66; Denver letter to Bureau dated 2/28/66, one copy for Las Vegas.

Enclosed for Las Vegas is a copy of LISTON's Denver PD record, Denver PD #11679, and a copy of LISTON's FBI Identification Record, under FBI #272 767 B, dated 3/13/64. Both of these records were received from the Identification Bureau, Denver PD, on this date. Also enclosed is a recent photograph of LISTON.

During the course of another investigation, [redacted] FBI [redacted]

SONNY LISTON who was just released from the Colorado State Penitentiary on 3/6/66, advised in March of 1966 that there was no doubt in his mind that the second CLAY-LISTON fight held in Lewiston, Maine, was fixed, and that LISTON took a dive in this fight. [redacted] who was born in Kirkwood, Missouri, and who worked with LISTON as [redacted] in St. Louis, Philadelphia, and Denver, and who claimed to be one of LISTON's few friends, stated he knows through his knowledge of the fight game that there is no fighter fighting today that LISTON could not defeat, including CLAY.

- 2 - Bureau
- 2 - Las Vegas
- 1 - Boston
- 2 - Denver

REC-23

MCT-26

APR 28 1966

WJM:54p
(7) MAY 9 1966



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

Muhammad Ali-745

Mr. [] who claimed to know ~~JOHN~~ VITALE, St. Louis hoodlum, and FRANK "BLINKY" PALERMO, former Philadelphia hoodlum now in prison because of their close association with LISTON, advised the first CLAY-LISTON fight was legitimate and LISTON lost this fight because of a shoulder injury. He advised it was common knowledge that VITALE, and later on, PALERMO, controlled LISTON and stated that shortly after PALERMO was in prison there was an internal battle among the hoodlum element to gain control over LISTON. He pointed out he was of the opinion that a group of Philadelphia hoodlums under the control of ANGELO BRUNO eventually gained control over LISTON and stated that is the reason that a Philadelphia lawyer with hoodlum connections, the identity of whom he did not know, handled LISTON's legal matters concerning his heavyweight championship fights.

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Previous investigation has indicated that [] Philadelphia lawyer, along with [] and [] all reportedly close friends of ANGELO BRUNO, were in contact with LISTON and these three individuals were observed at LISTON's Denver residence in October of 1964 by Denver Agents.

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[] further explained that the hoodlum element decided to get rid of LISTON inasmuch as he kept them in the spotlight and kept getting pressure on them by his numerous entanglements with police authorities. He said they considered LISTON to be a very unpopular champion and since they controlled the promotion of every title fight and did not need actual control of the champion, they ordered LISTON to take a dive in the second CLAY-LISTON fight.

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Mr. [] further advised that LISTON is very ruthless and enjoys a reputation of being hot-tempered, and he further advised that LISTON was ordered to take a dive in the first round in the CLAY fight inasmuch as the hoodlum element was well aware of his hot temper and the fact that if CLAY made LISTON angry enough, LISTON would forget his orders and would knock out CLAY.

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Mr. [] who advised he was furnishing all this information on a confidential basis, stated he could furnish no facts concerning the identity of the individuals who ordered LISTON to take a dive in this fight and admitted LISTON had never confided to him this same information. He pointed out that he bet \$6,000 on LISTON on the first LISTON-CLAY fight and advised when LISTON lost this fight he, [] turned to illegal activities in an effort to regain his huge losses and as a result, wound up in the Colorado State Penitentiary on forgery charges. He further pointed out that he was in the penitentiary at the time of the second CLAY-LISTON fight and therefore was not in a position to know the facts surrounding this matter and further emphasized that the above information concerning this second fight being fixed was purely his opinion, but that he was sure because of his experience in the fight game and because of his contact with LISTON that this opinion was right.

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Mr. [] pointed out that LISTON had been in contact with him since his release from the penitentiary and has offered him [] in the near future when LISTON travels to Europe where he is going to put on exhibition fights. He advised since he is on parole and not permitted to leave the state, he had to turn down LISTON's offer. He stated he was sure LISTON would never admit to the FBI that he was involved in a fixed fight, nor the fact that the hoodlum element controlled him, because of his fear of this element.

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DN 172-3

For further information of Las Vegas, LISTON, during his residence in Denver, Colorado, was contacted by the FBI on two occasions and during the latter contact, in the fall of 1965, exhibited a highly antagonistic attitude and refused to talk to Agents.

In June, 1964, Denver FBI Agents contacted LISTON concerning an extortion threat in regard to CASSIUS CLAY and LISTON, and during this contact appeared cooperative after he was told the purpose of this interview. During this contact he inquired of FRANK "BLINKY" PALERMO and even inquired as to when PALERMO would possibly be released from the penitentiary. Previous Denver investigation has determined LISTON is a heavy drinker on occasions, a ladies man, and a gambler who enjoys shooting dice. He has few close associates and spends a considerable amount of time with [redacted] a gambling establishment located in the Five Points Area of Denver where LISTON reportedly lost large sums of money.

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Denver is forwarding, under a separate matter, copy of a Denver report entitled, [redacted] aka - ITAR - GAMBLING, Denver file 166-119, Bufile 166-1774. Denver plans to interview [redacted] in the near future and if he furnishes any information concerning LISTON's hoodlum association and his being involved in fixed fights, this matter will be furnished to the Bureau and to all other appropriate offices.

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For further information of Las Vegas, LISTON was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, sometime around 1932 and 1933 and reportedly was one of twenty-five children. He has spent most of his time in the St. Louis, Missouri, and Philadelphia areas prior to moving to Denver and was reportedly controlled by St. Louis hoodlum JOHN VITALE while in St. Louis, and FRANKIE CARBO and FRANK "BLINKY" PALERMO while in the Philadelphia area. He also, in the past, has been associated with [redacted] a

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DN 172-3

fight promoter and associate of SAM GIANCANA, and was at one time managed by JOSEPH BARONE, a front man for PALERMO who was a known Philadelphia hoodlum.

Denver is not contemplating any further contacts with [] at this time since even though he appeared cooperative, he could not furnish any definite facts concerning LISTON's being involved in fixed fights or his being controlled by the hoodlum element.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (172-31)

DATE: 6/20/66

FROM : SAC, DENVER (172-3) -P-

SUBJECT: CHARLES "SONNY" LISTON;
CASSIUS CLAY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT
SPORTS BRIBERY
(OO: BOSTON)

Remylet to the Director dated 4/27/66.

[redacted] subject of case entitled [redacted]
[redacted] ITAR-GAMBLING," Denver file 166-119, who is
[redacted] a card shop on Walton Street in Denver, during
a contact on May 3, 1966 concerning his gambling operations,
volunteered that he had associated with LISTON while LISTON
resided in Denver but furnished no specific information
as to whether the championship fight between CLAY and LISTON,
held in Lewiston, Maine, was fixed.

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[redacted] who admitted running a gambling operation
from his card shop, advised that he had placed large bets
on LISTON on both of the LISTON-CLAY fights as had numerous
other individuals in the Five Points Area, and further stated
that after the second LISTON-CLAY fight, LISTON while in his
card shop, during a fit of anger exclaimed that anyone who
bet on fights was a fool inasmuch as no one knew who was
going to win these fights. [redacted] stated LISTON did not elaborate
on this statement and pointed out LISTON was angered at the
time inasmuch as the patrons of his card shop were giving
LISTON a hard time concerning his second loss to CLAY. [redacted]
admitted LISTON never confided in him but stated from
conversations with LISTON, there was no doubt in his mind
that LISTON was at one time controlled by the Philadelphia
hoodlums. He pointed out LISTON, just prior to leaving for
Las Vegas, Nevada, told him he was definitely on his own
and no longer owned by any individuals.

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2-Bureau
1-Boston (172-41) (Info) #1
1-Las Vegas (Info)
1-Philadelphia (Info)
2-Denver
WJM:cmw (7)

REC-49

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Muhammad Ali-750

Former Denver PCI, [] was contacted on a fugitive matter June 13, 1966, and [] who was a [] to LISTON, volunteered that LISTON had moved to Las Vegas, Nevada from Denver because of his association with one [] who is connected with the Stardust Motel in Las Vegas. [] further volunteered that he was present at the second CLAY-LISTON fight, seated in the front row, and that CLAY definitely hit LISTON with a good right hand which caused LISTON to be knocked down, and stated that he definitely did not think LISTON ever laid down in any fight.

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[] stated he was responsible for bringing LISTON to Denver and inasmuch as he promoted the LISTON-FOLEY fight which was held in Denver in 1962. He pointed out that up to that time, LISTON was having a difficult time getting fights and that he was able to arrange for this fight by giving FOLEY a large percent of the gate. He pointed out he was well aware LISTON was controlled by the hoodlum element and knew from his association with LISTON that LISTON took orders at one time from FRANK "BLINKY" PALERMO. He stated when he arranged for the LISTON-FOLEY fight, he had to make all of his arrangements for LISTON through [] of Philadelphia. He pointed out even though LISTON was controlled by the hoodlum element at this time the hoodlum element, however, was not powerful enough to set LISTON fights and definitely /, could not force FLOYD PATERSON to fight LISTON in order that they could control the heavy weight championship.

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He further advised he had never made any personal gain through his association with LISTON but did have a verbal agreement with LISTON that after the CLAY fights, LISTON, if still heavy weight champion, would fight for [] in Denver, Colorado.

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[] further volunteered that LISTON was not too smart and never in the past had a manager who was really interested in LISTON as a fighter and therefore, would be of

assistance to him, especially one who could be in LISTON's corner and help him during fights. He pointed out that inasmuch as LISTON was controlled by the hoodlum element, all of LISTON's trainers had a very small piece of the action and therefore, had no real financial interest in him as most other trainers have in fighters.

He pointed out LISTON when fighting with CLAY in Lewiston, was given no assistance in his corner during this fight, when he was badly in need of a good professional trainer. [] stated just prior to LISTON's moving to Las Vegas, LISTON approached him and asked him if he would care to become his manager and at the time informed him he was no longer owned or controlled by anyone, and that he would go to court to prove this to [] if [] was interested in becoming his manager. He advised in the past, he had been approached by LISTON on this same matter but turned down this offer inasmuch as LISTON admitted he was controlled and owned by the hoodlum element. He further advised that LISTON at one time told him that PALERMO sold his contract to the [] brothers when PALERMO was in need of money to pay his lawyers as result of his conviction in United States District Court, Los Angeles, on extortion charges. [] stated he had turned down LISTON's recent offer inasmuch as he is now operating a prosperous Mexican food business, and is in the process of granting franchises for this business for various individuals located throughout the Rocky Mountain and West Coast areas.

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He further advised that LISTON is presently in Europe where he plans to box a fight and according to LISTON is now managed by a Denver attorney, [] who is with LISTON in Europe.

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PCI [] during a recent contact, advised that on the day LISTON left for Las Vegas, he visited her residence and had in his possession []

[REDACTED] First National Bank of Denver, volunteered in confidence, information on June 7, 1966, that LISTON has a savings account at his bank and presently has \$25,631 in this account.

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He stated in May, 1966, LISTON deposited \$25,000 and in the past has had as much as \$75,000 in this account. He also stated that LISTON, who now resides at 2858 Ottawa Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, still is keeping his accounts at this bank, and also has a checking account which currently has over \$2,000 in it.